



DEPARTMENTS OF THE ARMY AND THE AIR FORCE
NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
1411 JEFFERSON DAVIS HIGHWAY
ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3231

NGB-J1

23 March 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR THE ADUTANTS GENERAL OF ALL STATES, PUERTO RICO,
THE US VIRGIN ISLANDS, GUAM, AND THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

SUBJECT: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of America Outreach Support Services for
Members of the National Guard and their Families (J1-05-016)

1. The Veterans of Foreign Wars has long recognized the vital role that the National Guard maintains in supporting our nation's military objectives and preserving a strong National Defense. They firmly believe that military families should not have to shoulder the burden of activation and deployment alone and have extended their support network and services to enhance our capabilities to ensure that our members and their families receive needed assistance.
2. Due to the unique organizational structure of the National Guard, many of our Soldiers, Airmen and their Families can find themselves isolated from normal military and civilian support channels. Meeting monthly expenses or completing tasks can become overwhelming for families with an activated or deployed service member. The VFW stands ready to assist our National Guard personnel and their families through the VFW Family Support Network. This program is not an attempt to replace existing military family support programs or to circumvent the chain-of-command, but rather to augment them to ensure that families receive needed support. With nearly 10,000 post and 2 million members, immediate assistance may be as close as your local VFW Post.
3. I have requested that The VFW Department Headquarters located in your state contact your office within the next several weeks. I strongly encourage you to set aside time for a personal meeting to discuss how the VFW and the Guard can work together in supporting our members and their families. You should however, remain mindful of the restrictions contained in the Joint Ethics Regulation regarding relationships with non-federal entities.

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4. The point of contact is BG Ronald Young, Director, Manpower and Personnel, commercial 703-607-3653 or DSN 327-3653.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H Steven Blum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "H" being a large, stylized capital letter.

H STEVEN BLUM
Lieutenant General, US Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau

CF:
NGB-PA



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ARLINGTON, VA 22202-3231

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU
AND
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES (VFW)

SUBJECT: Expand Outreach Support for National Guard Service Members and Families

1 PURPOSE:

- a. To establish a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that describes the parameters of association between the National Guard and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States.
- b. To serve as acknowledgement by the National Guard Bureau and State Joint Force Headquarters of the availability of services provided through the VFW in order to expand outreach support to National Guard Service Members and their Families.

2. SCOPE:

- a. All parties recognize the value of a relationship between the National Guard and Veteran Services Organizations will enhance our capabilities to provide additional quality of life services and support to all members of the National Guard and their Families.
- b. The National Guard Family Programs Division will establish the lines of communication with the National Headquarters of the VFW and will serve as the conduit for the State Joint Force Headquarters.
- c. The National Guard Bureau will request each State Joint Force Headquarters family services representative contact the VFW State Headquarters within their boundaries to establish awareness and a working relationship.
- d. Each State and local VFW unit/Post will contact the State Joint Force Headquarters within their boundaries to establish a working relationship with the family services representative.

3. The National Guard in accordance with the Joint Ethics Regulation (JER) is prohibited from endorsing or implying to endorse a non-Federal entity, event, product, service or enterprise. All parties recognize that this memorandum of understanding is

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not of that intent and, that it is not intended to violate any existing laws, regulations, or policies of either party.

4. Responsibilities:

a. The National Guard will:

- (1) Provide the VFW an updated list of State Joint Force Headquarters.
- (2) Provide an updated list of family services liaisons, State Family Directors, Wing Family Coordinators, and Family Assistance Centers to the National Headquarters of the VFW.
- (3) Advise Family Program workers and volunteers of the ability to share informational materials such as bulletins, brochures, and newsletters where applicable as a means to obtain information regarding VFW activities, programs, initiatives, and special community events in local areas of National Guard members and their families.
- (4) Inform National Guard Family Volunteers of the opportunity to liaison with VFW volunteers to enhance quality of service for families and communities at large.
- (5) Inform National Guard Family Coordinators to include VFW volunteers in Family Program Training events to foster the building of a stronger volunteer base.
- (6) Inform National Guard members of the various programs available to them through the VFW such as Youth Leadership Seminars, scholarship initiatives, Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service, grants for emergency relief, and Dependents State/Federal entitlements. This list is not all-inclusive.
- (7) Inform National Guard Members to make use of VFW and Ladies Auxiliary Volunteers and VFW Service Officers during Soldier Readiness Processing and Home Station Reunion when applicable to support Service Members and their families to compliment the existing National Guard Volunteer Base.

b. VFW will:

- (1) Provide an updated list of State/Department Headquarters to include contact information for each Commander, Adjutant and Executive Director.
- (2) Encourage all VFW Departments to promote community support for all mobilizations and demobilizations.

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(3) Provide an updated list of all Post Commanders and POC's to the Joint Force Headquarters within their State and or Territory.

(4) Encourage all VFW Posts where appropriate to serve as an extension POC for National Guard State Family Programs Family Assistance Centers coordinated through each State Family Program Director's office.

(5) Encourage VFW members to provide information on National Guard-VFW relationship activities.

(6) Provide link from the VFW website to the National Guard Bureau and the State Joint Force Headquarters family programs websites.

(7) Encourage advocacy and support of the ESGR Ombudsman program that works to provide mediation services to employers and members of the National Guard and Reserve.

(8) Encourage volunteers to cross train with National Guard Family Program Volunteers to enhance the volunteer base in support of Families and Service Members.

(9) Encourage the use of VFW Veterans Affairs Service Officers as a vehicle to assist any veteran, or their dependants in obtaining state or federal entitlements.

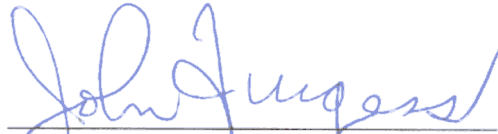
(10) Encourage the use of VFW Ladies Auxiliary in support of National Guard Volunteer support base.

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5. EFFECTIVE DATE: The effective date of this agreement is as of the signing below and will remain in effect until terminated by either party.



H STEVEN BLUM
Lieutenant General, US Army
Chief, National Guard Bureau



JOHN FURGESS
Commander-in-Chief
Veterans of Foreign Wars Of America



JOHN J. SENK
Adjutant General
Veterans of Foreign Wars
Of America

March 8, 2005
(Date)

March 8, 2005
(Date)